

SUMMARY OF RESULTS.

Situation of Disease		Disease Arrested	Improved	Unimproved	Relapsed	Died	Total
Spine	-	22	...	1	...	7	35
Hip	-	33	1	2	...	2	38
Knee	-	18	1	...	3	1	23
Various	-	27	...	...	...	...	27
Multiple	-	16	...	...	...	6	22

TREATMENT.—In the absence of an efficient specific therapy, treatment is still a matter of opinion and perhaps of fashion. The routine treatment carried out at Graymount may be summarized as “fresh air, such sunshine as is available, abundant nourishment, and prolonged rest in bed.” Local treatment has been entirely conservative. Spinal patients are given postural treatment without any severe fixation, and on discharge are usually provided with a poroplastic jacket as a precautionary measure. Hip-joints are treated by extension without splints, and, later, plaster is applied in those cases in which a stiff joint is expected. In disease of the knee, deformity is gradually reduced by extension in a Thomas’s splint; after this a plaster splint is used, and finally a walking caliper. The end results of this treatment are tabulated above. They compare favourably with most published.

My best thanks are due to Mr. H. P. Malcolm, who has put at my disposal the data collected by him at Graymount Municipal Hospital during the past ten years.

REFERENCES.

- BEHRMAN, S., 1930, *Lancet*, vol. 2, p. 297.
 CANTONNET, A., 1920, *Arch. d’Ophthalm.*, p. 126.
 GHORMLEY and BRADLEY, 1928, *Journ. of Bone and Joint Surg.*, vol. 10, p. 796.
 GRIFFITH, A. S., 1932, *Edin. Med. Journ.*, vol. 39, p. 177.

REVIEW

THE MEDICINAL AND POISONOUS PLANTS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

By Professor John Mitchell Watt and Maria Gerdina Breyer-Brandwijk. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1932. pp. 314. Price 25s.

It can be said of many books that they are interesting, that they are unique, or that they are valuable. In the case of this volume we can truly say that this book is interesting, and while being decidedly unique, it is also most valuable wherever one may turn its pages. It deals with much of the folklore of the native races of Africa, and with the vegetable flora of that prolific country. We read of racial ideas as to the virtues of various preparations of roots, barks, and leaves of plants, shrubs, trees, and flowers. There are accounts of various poisonous effects on animals as a result of eating obnoxious plants. There is much of interest and value in the pharmacological effects produced by various preparations. Throughout the book are beautiful illustrations, many in colour. The authors have provided four separate indices, so that plants can be traced through the English, African, or native equivalents.

This should prove indeed to be a valuable book of reference, and will long serve to preserve a record of the folk medicine of Southern Africa. The volume is very well produced, and both authors and publishers are to be congratulated upon it.

—F. M. B. A.